(i) For Above Poverty Line (APL) households, allocation of foodgrains to State Governments to be fixed on the basis of 20 kg. per family per month from the earlier allocation of 35 kg. per family per month, or the offtake during 2004-05, whichever is lower.

(ii) For Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households, the allocation of foodgrains to States to be fixed on the basis of 30 kg. per family per month from the existing 35 kg. per family per month.

A few State Governments represented that the implementation of the decisions taken on 06.1.2006 may adversely affect the functioning of the TPDS in their States and lead to large expenditure from the State Government budgets. Representations were also received from several political parties that the decision may adversely affect the food security of poor households. Keeping in view these representations, the Government has decided to postpone the implementation of the decision.

Pollution in Ganga

†38. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that polluted water and hazardous chemicals are released into River Ganga by tanneries and textile mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save polluted Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There are 72 tanneries and 61 textile industries located along the river Ganga in the States of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal which are likely to pollute the river Ganga. Of the 72 tanneries, 39 units are operating with effluent treatment plants, 20 units have been closed down and remaining 13 units have been found to be defaulters. Out of the 61 textile industries, 34 units have been closed down and remaining 27 units are operating with effluent treatment plants.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The steps being taken by Government to save the river Ganga are as follows :

(i) Under the River Conservation Plan, the industrial pollution is tackled through the implementation of the legal provisions stipulated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(ii) The concerned State Pollution Control Boards have been taking action to restore the water quality of river Ganga under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(iii) Under the Ganga Action Plan (Phase—I) pollution abatement works have been taken up in 25 towns located along the Ganga. Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), this has been further extended to 59 towns including the 11 towns of GAP (Phase—I) in the states of Uttranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

(iv) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set up Minimal National Standards (MINAS) for different categories of polluting industries which is implemented by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards through regular monitoring system.

Killing of sharks

39. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale killing of sharks is taking place in the country, in utter violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to arrest this situation so that the eco-system is saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No reports of large scale killing of sharks have been received from the States.

(b) Sharks are listed under Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, according the species highest degree of protection against hunting and trade. As per reports from coastal States of India, awareness